Hi Doug,

to my knowledge IDL does not provide direct support for reading MPEG.
However, there is some code around which provides this functionality, e.g.

 http://www.tasc-infm.it/research/xstm/staff/heun/idl/pro_hel p.html#READ_MPEG

This is just a wrapper which calls external software to convert the
movie into a sequences of still images. I would do it using mplayer
which also offers jpeg as output format.

mplayer -vo jpeg hhh.avi

will generate still images which can be read with read_jpeg. For gray
scale images it is fairly easy to stack them into a FITS data cube. In
case of RGB frames one has to think of how to interleave them.

Perhaps you can be a bit more specific why do you want to do this
conversion?

with kind regards,

 Bringfried

currie@umd.edu wrote:
> Do you know how I might convert an mpeg file (a video recording) into
> an fits cube?
> I have found many discussions on the reverse (IDL to mpeg) but none on
> mpeg to IDL/fits.
>
> Thanks
>
> Doug
>